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Darlaston Urban District Council



REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1958

J. K. HEAGNEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

F. G. Ashcroft, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1958.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Darlaston.*

Telephone : James Bridge 2391.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The health of the people of Darlaston as recorded in the vital statistics is satisfactory.

The estimated mid-year population has increased by 10 to 22,210. There were 334 live births, a decrease of 28 on the previous year. The infant mortality rate at 20.9 compares favourably with the figure of 22.9 for England and Wales. There were seven deaths in the first year of life, and six of these were of children during their first week. Again, I am happy to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. There were 199 deaths from all causes, being 4 more than in the previous year.

The number of cases of infectious disease was 89 compared with 539 in 1957.

The number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified (28) was 10 more than last year. This shows the value of the extensive examination of contacts, and the value of the mass radiography survey completed at the beginning of the year when, 10,084 persons were X-rayed, and 11 active cases of Tuberculosis, and over 120 other abnormalities were found. The detection of these potential sources of infection should be of great value in reducing the incidence of this disease in future years. The number of deaths from

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was three, the least number recorded so far for the district. There were two cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, one less than in 1957. There were no cases of Diphtheria, or Poliomyelitis during the year. Again, I would like to remind all concerned of the value of protection against these very deadly diseases, so that the town may continue to remain free from their unwelcome visitation.

Continuing the slum clearance programme, 66 houses were Represented in Clearance Areas, and 15 as individual unfit houses during the year.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the help they have given me during 1958.

My thanks are also due to the Chief Public Health Inspector, and all members of the staff. I feel fortunate in having such an excellent staff in the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. K. HEAGNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	J. K. Heagney, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>		F. G. Ashcroft, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	.. ..	T. H. Meredith, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>District Public Health Inspector</i>	.. ..	D. Knight, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Pupil Public Health Inspectors</i>	.. ..	M. -W. Bunch. W. E. Jevons.
<i>Senior Clerk</i>	.. ..	Mrs. F. Sharpe.
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	.. ..	Miss B. J. Tarbuck.
<i>Housing Visitor</i>	.. ..	Miss P. Harris (Appointed 6/1/58).

I am indebted to Mr. Green, Manager of the Darlaston branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the following report :—

During 1958, in common with the rest of the country, the level of employment in the industries of Darlaston tended to fall, and the number of persons registered as unemployed increased from 71 in January to 324 in December. More than 50% of this increase in unemployment was due to systematic short time working being introduced by several large firms.

The number of persons wholly unemployed in December was 154, the remaining 170 being short time workers.

On the whole, Darlaston was not as adversely affected by the worsened employment situation as the other towns in the immediate vicinity. The number of workers employed in the area was 18,568. This was a decrease of 829 on the number for 1957, and is again a reflection of the lower level of employment experienced during the year.

There were no industrial disputes, and relationships between employers and workers continued to be very good.

SECTION A.**GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.**

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	1,535
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid-1958	..	..	..	..	..	22,210
Comparability factor for deaths	..	..	..	..	..	1.46
Comparability factor for births	..	..	..	..	..	0.91
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	..	..	..	..	..	6,257
Total rateable value (March, 1958)	..	..	..	..	..	£206,917
Industrial rateable value (March, 1958)	..	..	..	..	..	£40,699
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1958	..	..	..	..	..	£825

Live Births.

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	162	164	326
Illegitimate	..	..	..	4	4	8
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				166	168	334
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	..	15.0
Live Birth rate adjusted for comparison with other places per 1,000 of the resident population	..	13.6
Live Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population	..	16.4

Still Births.

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	3	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				3	3	6
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	..	0.27
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	.. ..	17.6
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	.. .. .	21.6

Total Live and Still Births.

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	165	167	332
Illegitimate	..	..	..	4	4	8
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				169	171	340
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	4	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				3	4	7
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age :—

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	3	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				3	3	6
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.. ..	20.9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	..	21.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	..	Nil
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 related live births	.. .. .	22.6
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.. ..	17.9

Neonatal mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	16.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ..	2.1
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal death rate per 1,000 live and still births ..	Nil
Maternal death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	0.43

Of the deaths under one year of age: Atelectasis and Prematurity accounted for three male and one female infant deaths; Cerebral Haemorrhage caused the death of two female infants; and Cerebral Compression with Meningocele was responsible for the death of the remaining female infant.

Deaths.

Number of deaths from all causes	199
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	8.9
Death rate adjusted for comparison with other places ..	12.9
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population	11.7

**CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR-
GENERAL'S RETURN.**

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	3
Tuberculosis Other Organs	—	—	—
Syphilitic	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ..	5	4	9
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus..	9	1	10
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasm	12	11	23
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	9	13	22
Coronary Disease, Angina	25	7	32
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	3	1	4
Other Heart Disease	12	11	23
Other Circulatory Disease	1	3	4
Influenza	—	2	2
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	15	10	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All Other Accidents	3	—	3
Suicide	3	2	5
Homicide and Operations of War ..	—	—	—
Total All Causes	120	79	199

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1958.

	A G E .											
	20-25 M. F.	26-30 M. F.	31-35 M. F.	36-40 M. F.	41-45 M. F.	46-50 M. F.	51-55 M. F.	56-60 M. F.	61-65 M. F.	66-70 M. F.	71-75 M. F.	76 up M. F.
Cancer of Stomach						1	1	1	1		1	1
Cancer of Lungs and Bronchus							2	3	3		1	1
Cancer of Breast		1						1				
Cancer of Uterus									1			
Cancer of Other Sites	1				2	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
											1	3

SECTION B.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, one of which was admitted to hospital. The disease continues to be mild, but it should not be forgotten that this disease could return to the extent of some years ago, when it was a very serious disease indeed.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis during the year.

Measles.

This year the number of cases was 24 compared with 406 in 1957.

Whooping Cough.

There was a very welcome reduction from 124 cases in 1957, to five cases this year. The means of preventing this disease, with its chest complications of Bronchitis and Bronchiectasis, should be kept constantly in mind.

Pneumonia.

There were three cases notified, one less than the preceding year.

Dysentery.

There were 15 notified cases, most of which were mild. One case was admitted to hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Detailed figures are included in the report, where it will be noted that 11 of the 28 cases notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were aged 45 years and over. The Mass Radiography Survey can be most useful in detecting cases in this age group, where the sufferer is quite happy to think his persistent cough is due to Bronchitis, and so be responsible for the propagation of the disease. The extensive examination of contacts ; the Mass Radiography Survey ; the protection by B.C.G. of school leavers ; and the Heaf testing of school entrants are all very valuable methods in the control of this insidious and protean disease. While the application of these methods leads to an initial increase in the numbers notified, it should lead to a much greater reduction in the number of persons contracting the disease in future years.

Mass Radiography Survey.

The Mass Radiography Survey commenced at the end of 1957, and was completed in the early months of 1958. In all 10,084 persons were X-rayed, an excellent response. 11 cases of active Tuberculosis, and 123 other abnormalities were discovered. Sessions were held at 12 factories in the district in addition to the open sessions held at the Town Hall.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
Year.	Under 24.	Ages. 25 to 54. 55 and over.		Total.	
1945	11	6	2	19	2
1946	9	4	2	15	1
1947	6	2	4	12	3
1948	10	6	7	23	2
1949	5	7	4	16	—
1950	—	4	4	8	—
1951	1	5	1	7	4
1952	2	1	—	3	1
1953	—	5	1	6	—
1954	1	2	5	8	3
1955	1	1	2	4	—
1956	—	1	4	5	—
1957	—	2	4	6	—
1958	—	1	2	3	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED SINCE 1945.

Year.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1945	21	34	127	52	18	30	3
1946	17	21	7	18	12	28	2
1947	17	55	311	51	16	30	3
1948	6	53	169	29	10	36	2
1949	2	39	133	25	10	23	—
1950	—	14	78	44	13	18	2
1951	2	15	174	74	9	30	3
1952	—	33	145	41	16	28	3
1953	1	28	342	89	27	36	1
1954	—	23	9	138	15	25	3
1955	—	13	355	30	10	20	—
1956	—	4	3	15	14	21	—
1957	—	1	406	124	4	18	3
1958	—	12	24	5	3	28	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	No. of cases Suspected.	Confirmed.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	12	12	1
Whooping Cough	5	5	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	24	24	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Dysentery	15	15	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Groups.	Dysentery.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Pneumonia.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—
1—2	1	3	—	—	1	—	5	4	—	—
3—4	1	—	3	—	1	1	2	4	—	—
5—9	1	2	2	7	—	—	1	3	1	—
10—14	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
15—24	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25 and over	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	10	5	7	3	2	10	14	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS.
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1958.

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary M.
0—4 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—29 years	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
30—34 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—39 years	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
40—44 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—49 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50—54 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—59 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
60—64 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all ages	15	13	2	—	—	—	3	—

SECTION C.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE YEAR.****Public Health Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

Infectious Disease Hospitals.

Admission to these is arranged through the Public Health Department, or in emergency, on application by the General Practitioner direct to the hospital.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, or the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

General Hospitals.

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

Maternity Hospitals.

The patient's doctor arranges admission as necessary, on medical grounds. If admission on any other grounds is thought desirable application should be made to the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.**Infant Welfare Clinics.**

These are held at Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Monday and Thursday afternoons each week, and also at the Welfare Hall, Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley on Friday afternoons.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A weekly session is held at the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Wednesday mornings.

Health Visitors.

Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. Greatham are the Health Visitors working in this district. They can usually be contacted at the Jane Mills Institute during the day, and they also attend the above clinics.

Domestic Help.

The service for this district is administered by the Area Medical Officer, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury—Telephone No. Wednesbury 0961/2. The service is provided where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity, or other household emergencies.

District Nurses.

There are three district nurses practising in the district. When their services are required the family doctor will normally make the arrangement.

Midwifery.

There are three domiciliary mid-wives employed by the Staffordshire County Council practising in this district. Below is a list of their names and addresses :—

Mrs. E. Sullivan, 13, Slater Street, Darlaston.
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2324.

Mrs. E. M. Harris, 38, Victory Avenue, Darlaston.
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2603.

Mrs. V. M. Carroll, " Glenroy," Walsall Road, County Bridge, Willenhall.
Telephone No. : Willenhall 110.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

- (a) Vaccination against Smallpox is usually carried out by the General Practitioner.
 - (b) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is performed at the Infant Welfare Clinics each week, mostly on children between the ages of 3 and 12 months.
 - (c) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Special sessions were arranged as the vaccine became available for those in the selected age groups.
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SECTION D.**National Assistance Act, 1948.**

During the year no action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

SECTION E.**Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**

Details of the work done during the year in connection with meat and other foods is given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

SECTION F.

Housing.

I am grateful to Mr. Knight, Housing Supervisor, for the following report :—

During 1958, 96 units of accommodation were let, an increase of 42 on the previous year. These consisted of :—

- 32 one bedroomed flats ;
- 4 two bedroomed flats ;
- 42 two bedroomed houses ;
- 18 three bedroomed houses ;

of these 60 were allocated to slum clearance, and 36 to general need.

During the period there were also 32 re-lets of accommodation.

The Council's policy is to allocate 80% of all new property to slum clearance.

Housing Register.

The housing list at the end of 1958 consisted of the following :-

Housing Register.

- 8 applications from single persons ;
- 296 applications from persons with two in family ;
- 149 applications from persons with three in family ;
- 47 applications from persons with four in family.

This is an increase of 45 over the previous year.

SECTION G.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The main part of Darlaston's water supply comes from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the remainder is supplied by the Wolverhampton Water undertaking. Regular samples were taken during the year and found to be satisfactory in quality and quantity.

I am indebted to R. A. Robertson, Esq., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer in Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for the following report :—

1. The water supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is obtained from groups of pumping stations in the neighbourhood of Cannock and Lichfield and from surface sources outside the Urban District.

Water from all sources is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and where treatment is practised, both before and after treatment.

During 1958, 99 out of 101 samples taken from two of the Pumping Stations from which a large proportion of the water normally supplied is obtained, were free from coliform bacteria.

Routine samples from the waterman's house in Slater Street, Darlaston were examined and twelve samples were all free from coliform bacteria.

These samples were also examined chemically and the average results for 1958 were as follows :—

pH	..	..	..	..	7.4			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	..	..	..	..	140.	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	..	..	71.4	„	„	„
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	Trace	„	„	„
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	.029	„	„	„
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	1.9	„	„	„
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	..	..	..	.34	„	„	„
Temporary Hardness	..	..	..	..	133	„	„	„
Permanent Hardness	..	..	..	..	45	parts	per	million
Total Hardness	..	..	..	..	178.	„	„	„
Iron (Fe)	..	..	..	..	.04	„	„	„
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	..	..	Trace	„	„	„
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	..	..	..	..	Nil	„	„	„
Free Cl	..	..	..	..	Nil	„	„	„

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 12 samples from the waterman's house being free from lead.

Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations largely as a precautionary measure. Emergency chlorination is performed in cases of emergency such as burst mains, etc., and special staff and apparatus are available for this purpose. New mains are chlorinated and not brought into use until a sample of water from them is proved satisfactory.

Sewage Works.

The capacity of the Darlaston Sewage Works is for a population of 21,000, based on a water consumption of 25 gallons per head per day which is a dry weather flow of 525,000 gallons per day.

In the early part of 1958 the proportion of suspended solids in the effluent was a little more than normal. The necessary adjustment was carried out, and later analysis showed a reduction in suspended solids.

In addition other minor adjustments were carried out as required during the year.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Each year an attempt is made to produce this Report earlier in the year but circumstances seem to conspire against us.

Possibly the most significant event of the year was the bringing into force of the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. While it is too early as yet to form conclusions, it is hoped that the measures available will prove adequate so that, with co-operation and goodwill, atmospheric pollution can be reduced to an acceptable level.

This year also marks the conclusion of the first half of the five year Slum Clearance Programme. From the administration aspect, the number of houses dealt with has kept pace with the programme. Rehousing of families must obviously lag somewhat, with a consequent delay in demolition. Actual demolition is proving to be a major headache, it is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to secure proper clearing of sites.

Comments on any Annual Report would be incomplete without reference to the loyalty and enthusiasm of all members of the Department, the co-operation of other Departments, and the support of the Members of the Council.

Yours obediently,

F. G. ASHCROFT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 AND 1957.

(1) Action in respect of individual unfit houses.

(a)	Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made :				
	Addenbrooke Street Spring Cottages : 2, 4	..	..	..	2
	Bentley Road South : 37, 39	..	..	..	2
	Bull Street : 3, 4	..	..	..	2
	Bush Street : 47	..	..	..	1
	Foster Street : 13, 14	..	..	..	2
	Horton Street : 3	..	..	..	1
	Willenhall Street : 50	..	..	..	1
					<hr/> 11 <hr/>

(2) Clearance Area Action.

(a) The following Clearance Areas were declared by the Council :—

No. 37a—New Street/Cramphill	..	..	..	19
No. 38 —Foster Street	..	..	..	3
No. 39 —Central	..	..	..	3
No. 40 —Central	..	..	..	22
No. 41 —Central	..	..	..	5
No. 42 —Central	..	..	..	14
				<hr/> 66 <hr/>

(3) Houses which became void.

(a) Formal action.

				<i>Houses.</i>
Individual unfit houses—Demolition Orders	..			15
Clearance Areas	..	..	..	62
Clearance Orders	..	..	..	8

(b) Informal action.

Individual unfit houses	..	..	..	2
				<hr/> 87 <hr/>

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957—Part III.**CUMULATIVE TOTALS.**

	Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished.		No. of persons displaced up to 31/12/58.	No. of Dwelling Houses made fit.
	Unfit Houses.	Other Houses.		
PART A. Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land coloured " Pink "	322	—	1258	—
(ii) Land coloured " Grey "	—	—	—	—
PART B. Improvement Areas	—	—	—	—

PART C.—occurring in 1958.

Unfit houses not included in Clearance Areas or Improvement Areas :—

(1) Houses demolished—Statutory action	17
(2) Houses demolished—Informal action	2
(3) Houses demolished on certificate by Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the house for human habitation	—
(5) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—
(6) Closing Orders (Local Gov. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953)	—

HOUSING STATISTICS.**1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.**

(1) (a) Houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts)	217
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	217
(2) Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit	77
(3) Houses (exclusive of those in (2) above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	121

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Defective houses, rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority 55

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(1) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957.

No action was taken under these Sections.

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(a) Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 44

(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(i) By owners 34

(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

HOUSE BUILDING.

The following houses were erected by the Council :—

Street.	One Bedroom.	Two Bedrooms	Three Bedrooms	Four Bedrooms
Hawthorn Place	7	29	—	—
High Street, Moxley	11	1	—	—
Oak Avenue	—	6	18	—
Oak View (Edinburgh Avenue)	7	1	—	—
Poplar Avenue	—	6	—	—
Station Street	7	1	—	—
Wilkinson Road	—	2	—	—
Total each type	32	46	18	—

Total of all types : 96.

In addition the following houses were built by private enterprise :—

Private Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	7
Licensed premises with living accommodation				..	2
Shop, with living accommodation	..	..	..		1

Total of new houses erected in 1958 :—

Council	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
							<hr/> 106 <hr/>

HOUSING VISITOR.

(For Council-owned property).

Total number of visits made to Council houses	..	..	5,355
Number of visits to sub-standard Council houses	..	..	258

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Housing Act, 1949.

Grants totalling £441 10s. 0d. were approved by the Council in respect of the following four houses :—

Addenbrooke Street : 47	..	..	..	..	1
Fern Villas, Bull Street : 2	..	..	..	..	1
King Edward Street : 21	..	..	..	..	1
Richards Street : 38	1

Work was completed at the following house :—

Addenbrooke Street : 47	1
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RENT ACT, 1957.**Part 1.****Applications for Certificate of Disrepair.**

(1)	Number of applications for Certificates	20
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	2
(3)	Number of decisions to issue Certificates :—	
	(i) in respect of some, but not all defects	10
	(ii) in respect of all defects	9
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first Schedule	6
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first Schedule	Nil
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	15

Part II.**Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.**

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for Cancellation of Certificates	13
(8)	Objections by tenants to Cancellation of Certificates ..	3
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to Cancel in spite of tenants' objections	1
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**Abatement of Nuisances :**

Items in respect of which Informal Notices were served	1,056
Items in respect of which Abatement Notices were served	135
Items which were complied with	921

Mortuary.

During the year 21 bodies were received into the Mortuary.

Post Mortem examination was performed in 20 cases.

To overcome the inherent defect of having a glass roof to the Mortuary, a chill cabinet capable of holding three bodies has been installed which should obviate difficulties which have arisen in the past during hot weather.

At the other end of the temperature scale, localised infra red heating has been installed in an attempt to improve working conditions for the pathologist during winter.

Moveable Dwellings.

132 caravans moved on.

As Authorities develop housing estates, fewer resting places remain for gypsies, so increasing numbers of gypsies attempt to occupy what land remains. This year, extreme vigilance and prompt action by the Inspectors and Police has ensured that 132 caravans were prevented from moving in and settling down.

Precautions taken by the owner of one of the usual haunts should deny access to gypsies from now on.

One application, by a Church Sister, for a licence was granted, a licence for twelve months being issued.

Land near the centre of the town is still in use as winter quarters for members of the Showmen's Guild and has, this year, been provided with electricity supply points to which the caravans can be linked.

Public Baths.

The building is of modern construction and by, virtue of its design and construction, compares favourably with any in the Midlands. Full provision is made for heating, filtering, and sterilising the 133,000 gallons of water contained in the swimming pool. Slipper and shower baths are available. Periodic samples of the swimming pool water are taken and submitted for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Visits to infectious disease cases	140
Premises disinfected after infectious disease or on request for other reasons	2
Premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions	33
Terminal disinfection following deaths from Tuberculosis ..	1
Destruction of bedding	35

Refuse Collection.

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information :—

1958.	<i>Refuse.</i>	<i>Waste Paper.</i>		
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>T. C. Q.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
January	789	16 4 0	127	1 6
February	670	15 19 0	125	6 6
March	687	15 5 0	117	11 6
April	672	14 19 2	109	2 2
May	693	14 7 3	107	18 2
June	690	12 4 3	91	15 7
July	752	17 9 2	141	7 0
August	613	16 10 3	124	0 7
September	660	15 6 3	120	9 8
October	690	23 3 0	173	12 6
November	660	18 3 0	145	0 6
December	675	24 11 0	197	15 3
Totals	8251	204 4 0	1,581	0 11

MEAT AND FOODS.

For the greater part of the year only one slaughterhouse was in operation, used for the slaughter of bacon pigs on one or two days per week. Another slaughterhouse was re-opened in October after extensive alterations and reconstruction. This slaughterhouse is being used for contract slaughtering, including the slaughter of animals for butchers outside the Urban District. 100% meat inspection is being carried out, as will be seen from the table.

It is anticipated that with the re-opening of this slaughterhouse, considerably more work will fall to the Inspectors, but it will be 1959 before the full effects can be assessed. Already though, overtime is having to be worked to maintain 100% meat inspection.

No. of Slaughterhouses licensed	..	..	..	..	2
No. of slaughtermen licensed	..	..	..	..	10

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and found unfit in whole or in part.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Goats.
Number killed	109	4	19	869	1826	—	—
Number inspected	109	4	19	869	1826	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	3	—	105	181	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	18.3%	75%	—	12.1%	9.9%	—	—
Tuberculosis.							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	56	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	3.2%	—	—
Cysticercosis.							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The weight of meat found unfit in connection with the above table was 16 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. 14½ ozs.

UNFIT FOOD.

At the request of traders, considerable quantities of tinned goods, fish, bacon, etc., are inspected each year, and the system of voluntary surrender against certificates of unfitness is operated. By this system, no trader has any excuse for having unfit food in his possession.

During the year, 3 cwts., 11 lbs., 10½ ozs. of a wide range of foods (other than meat inspected at the slaughterhouses) was certified as unfit, voluntary surrender accepted and disposal arranged.

DISPOSAL OF UNFIT FOOD.

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the base of the working face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items suitable for burning are destroyed in the Council's incinerator.

The bulk of the unfit meat from the slaughterhouse is stained with the special green dye before removal to a licensed processing factory in an adjoining Authority. Every precaution is taken to regulate the handling of unfit food to ensure that it is not diverted from the proper channels.

Fortunately there exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.**(i) Number of food premises in the Area.**

				<i>No. of premises.</i>	<i>No. of visits.</i>
Civic Restaurant	..	..	..	1	18
Restaurants	..	..	..	9	34
Bakehouses	..	..	..	2	10
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	16	19
Butchers ..	..	..	..	30	106
Bacon Factories	..	..	..	1	89
Grocers ..	..	..	..	123	66
Greengrocers	..	..	..	22	42
Wet Fish Shops ..	..	..	..	7	17
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	2	281
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	76	195

(ii) Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

				<i>No. of Premises.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	..	77	40
Manufacturers of Preserved Foods	..			8	86

There is only one retailer of loose ice cream in the district.

(iii) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The following informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 :—

						<i>Served.</i>
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	7
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	11
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	3

Items contained on notices :—

Unsanitary premises	..	..	..	..	1
Equipment—dirty or unsuitable	..	..			30
Food not adequately protected	..	..			10
Dirty sanitary accommodation	..	..			2
Unsatisfactory lighting and ventilation to W.C.					3
Absence of water supply	..	..	..		1

Notices

Absence of wash hand basin	..	..	..	9
Unsatisfactory or no hot water	..	..	12	
Absence of soap, towel, and nailbrush	..	7		
Absence of locker	..	..	..	6
Inadequate lighting	..	..	..	3
Unsatisfactory ventilation	..	..	2	
Dirty food room	..	..	..	4
Food room in need of repair	..	..	51	
Vermin proofing	..	..	..	1
Accumulation of refuse	..	..	4	
Food not maintained at correct temperature			3	

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is designated approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no plants for the heat treatment of milk, and no producers of milk in the district.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation, 1949/53.

Supplementary Licences—

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	7
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	7
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	7

Dealer's Licences—

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	52
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	12
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	—

SAMPLING.

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and details of samples of milk taken to ascertain cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

List of samples taken during the year 1958 :**Milk.**

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	8
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	13
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	15
Milk T.T. Pasteurised—Channel Island	..	..	..	8
Number of samples taken	..	..	..	44
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	43
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	1

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	51
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	48
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	3

Classification of General Foods.

All Bran ; Skinless Pork Sausages ; Dried Rubbed Parsley ; Danish Butter ; Pork Brawn ; Tuna Fish ; Mints ; Chicken Fillets ; Chocolate Eclairs ; Pineapple Flavoured Curd ; Pompoms ; Vitaminised Iron Tonic Tablets ; Fruit Salad in syrup ; Energy Tablets ; Virol (2 samples) ; Orange Squash ; Brewers Yeast Flakes ; Processed Peas ; Macaroni Noodles ; Fancy Tuna ; Lemon Curd ; Mixed Vegetables ; Scotch Boneless Kippers ; Honey ; Black Pudding ; Grapefruit ; Ginger Marmalade ; Oranges (2 samples) ; Chop Sauce ; Pork Sausage ; Dairy Cream ; Ground Rice ; Sausage with Preservative ; Silver Dragees ; Richly Malted Cake ; Pineapple Dessert ; Malt Vinegar ; Artificial Cochineal Colouring ; Self Raising Flour ; Pork Luncheon Meat ; Blackcurrant and Honey Sweets ; Pork Sausage with preservative ; Almond Macaroons ; Lard ; Bubble Gum ; Granulated Sugar ; Blackcurrant Juice Cordial ; Glace Cherries ; Sifted Demerara Sugar.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1958.

	No. of	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test.		Turbidity Test.		Methylene Blue Test.		Biological.	
		Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.
Tuberculin Tested	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	25	—	—	25	—	—	—	17	1	—	—
Pasteurised ..	19	—	—	19	—	—	—	14	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	19	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	65	—	—	44	—	19	—	33	1	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 — (PART 1).

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	82	102	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local authority (excluding out-workers' premises	3	7	7	—	—	3
TOTALS	—	90	109	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted. (7)
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	To H.M. Inspector. (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	10	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—	—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Number of licences issued to store Petrol or Petroleum Spirit	47
Number of gallons of Petrol or Petroleum Spirit stored	.. 69,835
Number of licences issued to store Carbide of Calcium	.. 3
Amount of Carbide of Calcium stored	.. 44 tons 8 cwts.
Income from licences	.. .. .. £37 5s. 0d.

RODENT CONTROL.**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business premises (Factories, Shops, etc.)	.. ..	86
Private Dwelling Houses	.. ..	98
Estimated Kill (rats)	.. ..	842
Estimated Kill (mice)	.. ..	960

For a trial period it was decided to make no charge in respect of treatments against rats and mice carried out on domestic premises. It is anticipated that this will continue, except in cases where infestation is attributable to acts of the occupier.

CINEMAS.

Annual inspections for licensing purposes were carried out at the local cinemas.

Both cinemas were satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Prior to the coming into operation of the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the opportunity was taken of discussing the anticipated effects with local industrialists. Observations were taken of various chimneys and the firms concerned were informed of the results expressed in the terms of the then proposed Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, to give them an idea as to how they might expect to fare.

Many firms have converted their furnaces to oil firing, and others have equipped their boilers with automatic stokers. There remain the odd hand fired boilers which from time to time become borderline cases and as such are kept under quite close surveillance. Consistently with us is the smoke pollution from domestic sources, and cupolas, and the emissions due to oxyten enrichment processes.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

	Concentration of smoke.			Daily Mean Concentration Sulphur Dioxide. parts per 100 m.			Estimation of Sulphur Lead Peroxide Mg. SO3/day per 100 sq. cms. PbO2	Deposited matter per month.			
	Smoke Filter.			Average Highest. Lowest.				Ins. Rain.	Total Water Insoluble Matter Tons sq. mile	Total Water. Soluble Matter Tons sq. mile	Total Solids. Tons sq. mile
	Mg. per cubic metre.			Average Highest. Lowest.							
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest.	Lowest.					
Town Hall.				Town Hall.			Sewage Works.				
JANUARY ...	.25	.75	.07	8.6	22.5	2.4	4.64	1.38	15.02	9.41	24.43
FEBRUARY ...	.14	.51	.08	7.4	20.7	5.0	3.87	3.66	11.40	13.24	24.64
MARCH ...	.14	.27	.06	6.6	13.1	3.0	3.41	1.22	4.86	5.34	10.20
APRIL ...	.16	.38	.08	5.5	11.1	3.2	3.19	0.63	7.49	4.35	11.84
MAY ...	.11	.37	.04	3.8	9.6	1.4	—	2.36	9.21	9.55	18.76
JUNE ...	.07	.17	.02	2.7	5.4	1.1	1.41	3.90	9.81	7.60	17.41
JULY ...	.04	.08	.01	2.5	4.7	0.7	1.05	4.49	11.12	6.40	17.52
AUGUST ...	.07	.2	.02	3.1	6.0	0.6	1.21	2.29	9.38	8.39	17.77
SEPTEMBER ...	.11	.23	.06	3.5	6.7	1.8	1.75	4.65	11.67	13.24	24.91
OCTOBER ...	.14	.52	.07	6.0	14.9	2.1	1.93	3.19	11.11	9.03	20.14
NOVEMBER ...	.41	.96	.17	12.0	30.6	4.8	2.79	0.75	3.35	4.68	8.03
DECEMBER ...	.32	.72	.09	12.3	33.6	5.1	3.91	2.84	14.26	14.02	28.28

